

RESEARCH

Open Access



Affine inequalities for L_p -mixed mean zonoids

Tongyi Ma^{1*}, Yuanyuan Guo² and Yibin Feng¹

*Correspondence:

matongyi@126.com

¹College of Mathematics and Statistics, Hexi University, Zhangye, Gansu 734000, China
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Abstract

In this paper, we introduce the L_p -mixed mean zonoid of convex bodies K and L , and we prove some important properties for the L_p -mixed mean zonoid, such as monotonicity, $GL(n)$ covariance, and so on. We also establish new affine isoperimetric inequalities for the L_p -mixed mean zonoid.

MSC: 52A30; 52A40

Keywords: L_p -zonoid; L_p -mixed mean zonoid; Steiner symmetrization; affine inequality

1 Introduction

Let \mathcal{K}^n denote the set of convex bodies (compact, convex subsets with nonempty interiors) in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n . For the set of convex bodies containing the origin in their interiors, we write \mathcal{K}_o^n . \mathcal{K}_s^n denotes the class of o -symmetric members of \mathcal{K}_o^n (o denotes the origin in \mathbb{R}^n). Let S^{n-1} denote the unit sphere in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n and let $V(K)$ denote the n -dimensional volume of a body K . For the standard unit ball B in \mathbb{R}^n , we write $\omega_n = V(B)$ for its volume.

If $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$, then its support function, $h_K = h(K, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty)$, is defined by (see [1, 2]) $h(K, x) = \max\{x \cdot y : y \in K\}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, where $x \cdot y$ denotes the standard inner product of x and y .

The zonoids are investigated by many authors (see [3–5]). The zonoid \mathcal{Z} is a convex body with support function

$$h_{\mathcal{Z}}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle| d\mu(v) \quad \text{for all } u \in S^{n-1},$$

where μ is some positive, even Borel measure on S^{n-1} and $\langle x, y \rangle$ denotes the standard inner product of vectors x and y in \mathbb{R}^n .

For $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$, the mean zonoid, $\bar{\mathcal{Z}}K$, was defined by Zhang [6]

$$h_{\bar{\mathcal{Z}}K}(u) = \frac{1}{V(K)^2} \int_K \int_K |\langle u, (x - y) \rangle| dx dy \quad \text{for all } u \in S^{n-1}, \quad (1.1)$$

where $V(K)$ is the volume of the body K .

Further, Zhang [6] proved the affine isoperimetric inequality $V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}K) \geq V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}B_K)$, where B_K is the n -ball with the same volume as K .

For each convex subset in \mathbb{R}^n , it is well known that there is a unique ellipsoid with the following property: The moment of inertia of the ellipsoid and the moment of inertia of the convex set are the same about every 1-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^n . This ellipsoid is called the ellipsoid of inertia $\Gamma_2 K$ (also called the Legendre ellipsoid) of the convex set. Namely, between the convex body K and the ellipsoid of inertia $\Gamma_2 K$ we have

$$\int_K |\langle x, y \rangle|^2 dx = \int_{\Gamma_2 K} |\langle x, y \rangle|^2 dx, \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

The Legendre ellipsoid and its polar (the Binet ellipsoid) are well-known concepts from classical mechanics. See [7–9] for historical references.

A non-negative finite Borel measure μ on the unit sphere S^{n-1} is said to be isotropic if it has the same moment of inertia about all lines through the origin or, equivalently, if, for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$|x|^2 = \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle x, u \rangle|^2 d\mu(u),$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the standard Euclidean norm on \mathbb{R}^n .

Based on the background of mechanics properties, the notion of L_p -zonoids was given by Schneider and Weil [10]. For $p \geq 1$, an L_p -zonoid was defined by

$$h_{Z_p K}(u)^p = \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p d\mu(v) \quad \text{for all } u \in S^{n-1}, \quad (1.2)$$

where μ is some positive, even Borel measure on S^{n-1} . We also refer to [4, 11].

Xi, Guo and Leng [12] considered an extension for a class of bodies $\tilde{Z}_p K$ named L_p -mean zonoids as follows: For $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $p \geq 1$, the L_p -mean zonoid, $\tilde{Z}_p K$, of K is defined by

$$h_{\tilde{Z}_p K}(z) = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)^2} \int_K \int_K |\langle z, (x - y) \rangle| dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{o\}. \quad (1.3)$$

For $p = 1$, the body $\tilde{Z}K$ is the mean zonoid of K [6]. Xi *et al.* also showed that $\tilde{Z}_p K$ is an L_p -zonoid, and established the following affine isoperimetric inequality: For $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $p \geq 1$,

$$V(\tilde{Z}_p K) \geq C_{n,p} V(K), \quad (1.4)$$

with equality if and only if K is an ellipsoid. Here $C_{n,p}$ is a constant depending on p and the dimension n .

The main purpose of this paper is to introduce the notion of L_p -mixed mean zonoids, which extends the L_p -mean zonoids by Xi, Guo and Leng [12].

Definition 1.1 For $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $p \geq 1$, L_p -mixed mean zonoids, $\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)$, of K and L are defined by

$$h_{\tilde{Z}_p(K,L)}(z) = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_L |\langle z, (x - y) \rangle|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{o\}. \quad (1.5)$$

Notice that when $K = L$, (1.5) is defined by Xi, Guo, and Leng in [12].

Let $\omega_p = \pi^{p/2}/\Gamma(1 + p/2)$ and

$$C(n, p) = \left(\frac{2^{n+p}(2n+p+1)\omega_{2n+p}\omega_{2n+p+1}}{(n+1)\omega_2^2\omega_n^2\omega_{n+1}\omega_{p-1}\omega_{n+p-1}} \right)^{n/p}.$$

For the L_p -mixed mean zonoids, our main result is to establish the more general affine inequality as follows.

Theorem 1.2 *Let $K, L \in \mathcal{K}_o^n$ and $p \geq 1$. If $K \subseteq L$, then*

$$V(\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)) \geq C(n, p)V(K)^{\frac{n+p}{p}}V(L)^{-\frac{n}{p}}, \quad (1.6)$$

with equality if and only if $K = L$ is an ellipsoid.

If $L = K$, then the above inequality (1.6) reduces to the affine inequality (1.4).

An immediate consequence of Theorem 1.2 is the following.

Corollary 1.3 *Let $K, L \in \mathcal{K}_o^n$. If $K \subseteq L$, then*

$$\left(\frac{V(\tilde{Z}_1(K, L))}{V(K)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq (C(n, 1))^{\frac{1}{n}} \left(\frac{\tilde{V}_1(L, K)}{V(L)} \right)^n, \quad (1.7)$$

with equality if and only if $K = L$ is an ellipsoid.

2 Notation and preliminaries

We refer to the books Gardner [1] and Schneider [2] for some terminologies and notations as regards convex bodies.

The Hausdorff metric $\delta_H(K, L)$ between sets $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ can be defined by

$$\delta_H(K, L) = \sup_{x \in S^{n-1}} |h(K, x) - h(L, x)|.$$

A set K is star-shaped (about $x_0 \in K$) if there exists $x_0 \in K$, such that the line segment from x_0 to any point $x \in K$ is contained in K . If K is a compact star-shaped (about the origin) set, then its radial function $\rho_K(x, z) : \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ with respect to x is defined by

$$\rho_K(x, z) = \max\{c : x + cz \in K\} \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x\}. \quad (2.1)$$

If ρ_K is positive and continuous, then K will be called a star body (about the origin), and \mathcal{S}^n denotes the set of star bodies in \mathbb{R}^n . We will use \mathcal{S}_o^n to denote the subset of star bodies in \mathcal{S}^n containing the origin in their interiors. Two star bodies K and L are said to be dilates of one another if $\rho_K(u)/\rho_L(u)$ is independent of $u \in S^{n-1}$.

For $K, L \in \mathcal{S}_o^n$, $p > 0$, and $\lambda, \mu \geq 0$ (not both zero), the L_p -radial combination, $\lambda \circ K \tilde{+}_p \mu \circ L \in \mathcal{S}_o^n$, is defined by

$$\rho(\lambda \circ K \tilde{+}_p \mu \circ L, \cdot)^p = \lambda \rho(K, \cdot)^p + \mu \rho(L, \cdot)^p.$$

The dual L_p -mixed volume $\tilde{V}_p(K, L)$ of K, L was defined by

$$\tilde{V}_p(K, L) = \frac{p}{n} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{V(K \tilde{+}_p \varepsilon \circ L) - V(K)}{\varepsilon}. \quad (2.2)$$

The integral representation of $\tilde{V}_p(K, L)$ was proved by

$$\tilde{V}_p(K, L) = \frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho_K(u)^{n-p} \rho_L(u)^p dS(u).$$

The L_p -Minkowski inequality for the dual L_p -mixed volume is: If $K, L \in \mathcal{S}_o^n$ and $0 < p < n$, then

$$\tilde{V}_p(K, L) \leq V(K)^{\frac{n-p}{n}} V(L)^{\frac{p}{n}}, \quad (2.3)$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates.

The difference body $D(K, L)$ of K and L is defined by $D(K, L) = K - L = \{x - y : x \in K, y \in L\}$. Particularly, $DK = K - K = \{x - y : x \in K, y \in K\}$.

For a star-shaped K and $p \geq 1$, the L_p -centroid body of K , $\Gamma_p K$ is the origin-symmetric convex body with the support function

$$h_{\Gamma_p K}(u)^p = \frac{1}{V(K)} \int_K |\langle u, x \rangle|^p dx = \frac{1}{(n+p)V(K)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p \rho_K(v)^{n+p} dv, \quad (2.4)$$

for all $u \in S^{n-1}$.

For $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$, $p > -1$, and $K \subseteq L$, the generalized radial p th mean body, $R_p(K, L, \lambda_n)$, is defined by (see [13, 14])

$$\rho_{R_p(K, L, \lambda_n)}(u) = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)} \int_K \rho_L(x, u)^p dx \right)^{1/p}, \quad (2.5)$$

for all $u \in S^{n-1}$, where λ_n is the n -dimensional Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R}^n .

Lemma 2.1 ([13]) *For $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the parallel section function on \mathbb{R}^n is defined by $A_{K,L}(x) := V(K \cap (L + x))$. Then $g_{K,L}(x) = A_{K,L}(x)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ is concave on its support.*

If $K \subseteq L$ and $p > 0$, then for all $u \in S^{n-1}$ (see [13, 14])

$$\int_K \rho_L(x, u)^p dx = p \int_0^\infty A_{K,L}(ru) r^{p-1} dr = p \int_0^{\rho_{DK}(u)} A_{K,L}(ru) r^{p-1} dr. \quad (2.6)$$

For $p, q > 0$, define the β -function by

$$\beta(p, q) = \int_0^1 t^{p-1} (1-t)^{q-1} dt = \frac{\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q)}{\Gamma(p+q)}.$$

Lemma 2.2 *If $\lambda > 0$ and $A_{K,L}(r, u) := V(K \cap (L + ru))$, then*

$$\int_0^\infty A_{K,L}(r, u) r^\lambda dr \leq n^{\lambda+1} \beta(\lambda+1, n) V(K)^{-\lambda} \left(\int_0^\infty A_{K,L}(r, u) dr \right)^{\lambda+1}. \quad (2.7)$$

Proof If

$$F(\lambda) = \left(\frac{1}{\beta(\lambda+1, n)} \int_0^\infty \frac{A_{K,L}(r, u)}{A_{K,L}(0, u)} r^\lambda dr \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda+1}},$$

then $F(\lambda)$ is a decreasing function on $(-1, +\infty)$. Particularly, if $\lambda > 0$, then $F(\lambda) \leq F(0)$ with equality if and only if

$$1 - \left(\frac{A_{K,L}(r, u)}{A_{K,L}(0, u)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} = \frac{r}{F(0)}.$$

Then

$$\int_0^\infty A_{K,L}(r, u) r^\lambda dr \leq n^{\lambda+1} \beta(\lambda+1, n) V(K)^{-\lambda} \left(\int_0^\infty A_{K,L}(r, u) dr \right)^{\lambda+1}, \quad (2.8)$$

with equality if and only if $A_{K,L}(r, u) = V(K) \left(1 - \frac{rV(K)}{n \int_K \rho_L(x, u) dx} \right)^{n-1}$. \square

3 L_p -Mixed mean zonoids

Suppose $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $p \geq 1$. Define $\tilde{Z}_\infty(K, L)$ by

$$h_{\tilde{Z}_\infty(K, L)}(u) = \max_{x \in K, y \in L} |\langle u, (x - y) \rangle| \quad \text{for all } u \in S^{n-1}.$$

Since $\tilde{Z}_\infty(K, L) = D(K, L)$, it follows from Jensen's inequality that

$$\tilde{Z}_p(K, L) \subseteq \tilde{Z}_q(K, L) \subseteq D(K, L) \quad \text{for } 1 \leq p \leq q.$$

Property 3.1 Let $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ with $K \subseteq L$. If $p \geq 1$, then

$$\tilde{Z}_p(K, L) = \left(\frac{V(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}{(n+p)V(L)} \right)^{1/p} \Gamma_p(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n)). \quad (3.1)$$

Proof From (1.5), (2.1), the Fubini theorem, (2.4), and (2.5), passing to spherical coordinates we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_{\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)}(z) &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_L |\langle z, (x - y) \rangle|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_0^{\rho_L(y, v)} |\langle z, v \rangle|^p r^{n+p-1} dr dv dy \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{(n+p)V(K)V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle z, v \rangle|^p \int_K \rho_L(y, v)^{n+p} dy dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{(n+p)V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle z, v \rangle|^p \rho_{R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n)}(v)^{n+p} dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{V(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}{(n+p)V(L)} \right)^{1/p} h_{\Gamma_p(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}(z). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

$$= \left(\frac{V(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}{(n+p)V(L)} \right)^{1/p} h_{\Gamma_p(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}(z). \quad (3.3)$$

Combining with (3.3), we have

$$\bar{Z}_p(K, L) = \left(\frac{V(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n))}{(n+p)V(L)} \right)^{1/p} \Gamma_p(R_{n+p}(K, L, \lambda_n)). \quad \square$$

Together (2.6) with (3.2), if $K \subseteq L$, then

$$h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z) = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle z, u \rangle|^p \int_0^\infty A_{K, L}(ru) r^{n+p-1} dr du \right)^{1/p}. \quad (3.4)$$

Let

$$C_{K, L}(n, p) = \left(\frac{n^{n+p} \beta(n+p, n) V(R_1(K, L, \lambda_n))}{V(L)} \right)^{1/p}.$$

Property 3.2 Let $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $p \geq 1$. If $K \subseteq L$, then

$$\bar{Z}_p(K, L) \subseteq C_{K, L}(n, p) \Gamma_p(R_1(K, L, \lambda_n)).$$

Proof By (3.4), (2.7), (2.6), (2.5), and (2.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(u) &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p \int_0^\infty A_{K, L}(ru) r^{n+p-1} dr dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{n^{n+p} \beta(n+p, n)}{V(K)^{n+p} V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p \left(\int_0^\infty A_{K, L}(r, v) dr \right)^{n+p} dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{n^{n+p} \beta(n+p, n)}{V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p \left(\frac{1}{V(K)} \int_K \rho_L(x, v) dx \right)^{n+p} dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{n^{n+p} \beta(n+p, n)}{V(L)} \int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, v \rangle|^p \rho_{R_1(K, L, \lambda_n)}^{n+p}(v) dv \right)^{1/p} \\ &= C_{K, L}(n, p) h_{\Gamma_p(R_1(K, L, \lambda_n))}(u). \end{aligned}$$

This implies $h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(u) \leq C_{K, L}(n, p) h_{\Gamma_p(R_1(K, L, \lambda_n))}(u)$. \square

The following property will be used to prove that $\bar{Z}_p: \mathcal{K}^n \times \mathcal{K}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{K}^n$ is continuous.

Property 3.3 If $p \geq 1$, $K_i, L_i \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $K_i \rightarrow K \in \mathcal{K}^n, L_i \rightarrow L \in \mathcal{K}^n$, then

$$\bar{Z}_p(K_i, L_i) \rightarrow \bar{Z}_p(K, L).$$

Proof Since $K_i \rightarrow K$, $\{K_i\}$ are uniformly bounded. Thus there is $R_K > 0$, such that $K_i \subseteq R_K B^n$. Similarly, $L_i \subseteq R_L B^n$ with $R_L > 0$. Taking (1.5) together with Minkowski's inequality, it follows that for $u_0 \in S^{n-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} &|h_{\bar{Z}_p(K_i, L_i)}(u_0) - h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(u_0)| \\ &= \left| \left(\frac{1}{V(K_i)V(L_i)} \int_{R_K B^n} \int_{R_L B^n} \mathbf{1}_{K_i}(x) \mathbf{1}_{L_i}(y) |\langle u_0, (x-y) \rangle|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_{R_K B^n} \int_{R_L B^n} \mathbf{1}_K(x) \mathbf{1}_L(y) | \langle u_0, (x-y) \rangle |^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\
& \leq \left(\frac{1}{V(K_i)V(L_i)} \int_{R_{K_i} B^n} \int_{R_{L_i} B^n} | \mathbf{1}_{K_i}(x) \mathbf{1}_{L_i}(y) - \mathbf{1}_K(x) \mathbf{1}_L(y) | | \langle u_0, (x-y) \rangle |^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\
& \quad + \left| \left(\left(\frac{1}{V(K_i)V(L_i)} - \frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \right) \int_{R_K B^n} \int_{R_L B^n} \mathbf{1}_K(x) \mathbf{1}_L(y) | \langle u_0, (x-y) \rangle |^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \right|.
\end{aligned}$$

This means $h_{\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K_i, L_i)}(u_0) \rightarrow h_{\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)}(u_0)$, which is the desired result. \square

The following property will prove that $\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p : \mathcal{K}^n \times \mathcal{K}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{K}^n$ is $GL(n)$ covariant.

Property 3.4 If $p \geq 1$, $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$ and $T \in GL(n)$, then

$$\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(TK, TL) = T(\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)).$$

Proof Combining (1.5) with the substitution $x = Tx_1, y = Ty_1$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
h_{\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(TK, TL)}(z) &= \left(\frac{1}{V(TK)V(TL)} \int_{TK} \int_{TL} | \langle z, (x-y) \rangle |^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{V(TK)V(TL)} |T|^2 \int_K \int_L | \langle z, (Tx - Ty) \rangle |^p dx_1 dy_1 \right)^{1/p} \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_L | \langle T^t z, (x_1 - y_1) \rangle |^p dx_1 dy_1 \right)^{1/p} \\
&= h_{\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)}(T^t z) \\
&= h_{T \tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)}(z).
\end{aligned}$$

Namely, $\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(TK, TL) = T(\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L))$. \square

4 Proof of main result

If $u \in S^{n-1}$, then we denote by u^\perp the $(n-1)$ -dimensional subspace orthogonal to u , by l_u the line through o parallel to u , and by $l_u(x)$ the line through the point x parallel to u . We denote by K_u the image of the orthogonal projection of K onto u^\perp for a convex body K . Let $\bar{l}_u(K; y') : K_u \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\underline{l}_u(K; y') : K_u \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for the overgraph and undergraph functions of K in the direction u ; namely,

$$K = \{y' + tu : -\underline{l}_u(K; y') \leq t \leq \bar{l}_u(K; y') \text{ for } y' \in K_u\}.$$

Thus, the overgraph and undergraph functions of the Steiner symmetrical S_u of $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$ in direction u are defined by

$$\bar{l}_u(S_u K; y') = \underline{l}_u(S_u K; y') = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{l}_u(K; y') + \underline{l}_u(K; y')).$$

For $y' \in K_u$, $m_{y'} = m_{y'}(u)$ denotes $m_{y'}(u) = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{l}_u(K; y') - \underline{l}_u(K; y'))$. Let the midpoint of the chord $K \cap l_u(y')$ be $y' + m_{y'}(u)u$, note that $l_u(y')$ is the line through y' parallel to u , and let the length $|K \cap l_u(y')|$ of this chord be $\sigma_{y'} = \sigma_{y'}(u)$. For $x = (x', s) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$, we write $h_K(x', s)$ throughout this section.

Lemma 4.1 ([15]) *If $K \in \mathcal{K}_o^n$, $u \in S^{n-1}$ and $y' \in \text{reint } K_u$, then*

$$\bar{l}_u(K; y') = \min_{x' \in u^\perp} \{h_K(x', 1) - \langle x', y' \rangle\}, \quad (4.1)$$

$$l_u(K; y') = \min_{x' \in u^\perp} \{h_K(x', -1) - \langle x', y' \rangle\}. \quad (4.2)$$

Lemma 4.2 *If $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$, $p \geq 1$, $u \in S^{n-1}$, and $z'_1, z'_2 \in u^\perp$, then*

$$h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L)}\left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, 1\right) \leq \frac{1}{2} h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) + \frac{1}{2} h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1), \quad (4.3)$$

$$h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L)}\left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, -1\right) \leq \frac{1}{2} h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) + \frac{1}{2} h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1). \quad (4.4)$$

Equality in (4.3) or (4.4) implies that all of the chords of K and L parallel to u have mid-points that lie in a hyperplane, respectively.

Proof We only prove (4.3). Inequality (4.4) can be established in the same way. It follows from the definition of the L_p -mixed mean zonoid that

$$\begin{aligned} & h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_L |(\langle z'_1, 1 \rangle, (x - y))|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \int_{K_u} \int_{m_{y'} - \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{m_{y'} + \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{m_{x'} - \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{m_{x'} + \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} |(\langle z'_1, 1 \rangle, ((x', s_1) - (y', s_2)))|^p ds_1 dx' ds_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_{K_u} \int_{m_{y'} - \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{m_{y'} + \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{m_{x'} - \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{m_{x'} + \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} |\langle z'_1, (x' - y') \rangle + s_1 - s_2|^p ds_1 dx' ds_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \int_{K_u} \int_{-\frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{\frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{-\frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{\frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} |\langle z'_1, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 + m_{x'} - m_{y'}|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} |\langle z'_1, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 + m_{x'} - m_{y'}|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p}, \end{aligned}$$

by $t_1 = -m_{x'} + s_1$, $t_2 = -m_{y'} + s_2$.

$$\begin{aligned} & h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_K \int_L |(\langle z'_2, -1 \rangle, (x - y))|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \times \int_{K_u} \int_{m_{y'} - \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{m_{y'} + \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{m_{x'} - \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{m_{x'} + \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} \left| \langle (z'_2, -1), ((x', s_1) - (y', s_2)) \rangle \right|^p ds_1 dx' ds_2 dy' \Big)^{1/p} \\
& = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \int_{K_u} \int_{m_{y'} - \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{m_{y'} + \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{m_{x'} - \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{m_{x'} + \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} \left| \langle z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle - s_1 + s_2 \right|^p ds_1 dx' ds_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\
& = \left(\frac{1}{V(K)V(L)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \left. \int_{K_u} \int_{m_{y'} - \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}}^{m_{y'} + \frac{\sigma_{y'}}{2}} \int_{L_u} \int_{m_{x'} - \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}}^{m_{x'} + \frac{\sigma_{x'}}{2}} \left| \langle z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 - m_{x'} + m_{y'} \right|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\
& = \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} \left| \langle z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 - m_{x'} + m_{y'} \right|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p}.
\end{aligned}$$

Let $t_1 = m_{x'} - s_1$, $t_2 = m_{y'} - s_2$. Thus, combining with Minkowski's inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2h_{\tilde{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L)} \left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, 1 \right) \\
& = 2 \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} \left| \left\langle \left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, 1 \right), (x - y) \right\rangle \right|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p} \\
& = \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} \left| \langle (z'_1 + z'_2), (x' - y') \rangle + 2t_1 - 2t_2 \right|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\
& \leq \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} \left| \langle z'_1, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 + m_{x'} - m_{y'} \right|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\
& \quad + \left(\frac{1}{V(S_u K)V(S_u L)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \left. \int_{S_u K} \int_{S_u L} \left| \langle z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 - m_{x'} + m_{y'} \right|^p dt_1 dx' dt_2 dy' \right)^{1/p} \\
& = h_{\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) + h_{\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1).
\end{aligned}$$

From the condition of inequality in Minkowski's inequality, we know that equality in (4.3) or (4.4) holds if and only if for $\lambda \geq 0$, we have

$$\langle z'_1, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 + m_{x'} - m_{y'} = \lambda (\langle z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle + t_1 - t_2 - m_{x'} + m_{y'}),$$

for all $(x'_1, t_1) \in K$, $(y'_1, t_2) \in L$. This is equivalent to

$$(\langle z'_1 - \lambda z'_2, (x' - y') \rangle + (1 + \lambda)(m_{x'} - m_{y'}) = (\lambda - 1)(t_1 - t_2), \quad (4.5)$$

for all $(x'_1, t_1) \in K$, $(y'_1, t_2) \in L$.

We fix x', y' . If change t_1, t_2 in (4.5) with $(x'_1, t_1) \in K$, $(y'_1, t_2) \in L$, then the left of (4.5) will not change; thus we obtain $\lambda = 1$. Namely, equality in (4.3) or (4.4) implies all of the chords of K and L parallel to u have midpoints that lie in a hyperplane, respectively. \square

Lemma 4.3 *If $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$, $p \geq 1$ and $u \in S^{n-1}$, then*

$$\tilde{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L) \subseteq S_u(\tilde{Z}_p(K, L)). \quad (4.6)$$

If the inclusion is an identity, then all of the chords of K and L parallel to u have midpoints that lie in a hyperplane, respectively.

Proof Let $y' \in \text{relint}(\bar{Z}_p(K, L))_u$. Lemma 4.1 means that there exist $z'_1 = z'_1(y')$ and $z'_2 = z'_2(y')$ in u^\perp with

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{l}_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') &= h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) - \langle z'_1, y' \rangle, \\ l_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') &= h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) - \langle z'_2, y' \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Combining (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), and (4.4), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{l}_u(S_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L)); y') &= \frac{1}{2}\bar{l}_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') + \frac{1}{2}l_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) - \langle z'_1, y' \rangle) + \frac{1}{2}(h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) - \langle z'_2, y' \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) + \frac{1}{2}h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) - \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{2}z'_1 + \frac{1}{2}z'_2\right), y' \right\rangle \\ &\geq h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u(K, L))}\left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, 1\right) - \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{2}z'_1 + \frac{1}{2}z'_2\right), y' \right\rangle \\ &\geq \min_{x' \in u^\perp} \{h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u(K, S_u L))}(x', 1) - \langle x', y' \rangle\} \\ &= \bar{l}_u(\bar{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L); y')\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}l_u(S_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L)); y') &= \frac{1}{2}\bar{l}_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') + \frac{1}{2}l_u(\bar{Z}_p(K, L); y') \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) - \langle z'_1, y' \rangle) + \frac{1}{2}(h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) - \langle z'_2, y' \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_1, 1) + \frac{1}{2}h_{\bar{Z}_p(K, L)}(z'_2, -1) - \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{2}z'_1 + \frac{1}{2}z'_2\right), y' \right\rangle \\ &\geq h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u(K, L))}\left(\frac{z'_1 + z'_2}{2}, -1\right) - \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{2}z'_1 + \frac{1}{2}z'_2\right), y' \right\rangle \\ &\geq \min_{x' \in u^\perp} \{h_{\bar{Z}_p(S_u(K, S_u L))}(x', -1) - \langle x', y' \rangle\} \\ &= l_u(\bar{Z}_p(S_u K, S_u L); y').\end{aligned}$$

Let the inclusion be an identity. Then equality in both (4.3) and (4.4) holds; thus all of the chords of K and L parallel to u have midpoints that lie in a hyperplane, respectively. \square

Now, we show that $\bar{Z}_p(K, L)$ contains the origin in its interior.

Lemma 4.4 Suppose that $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n, p \geq 1$. Then there exists $c_0 > 0$ such that

$$\int_K \int_L ||u, (x - y)||^p dx dy \geq c_0,$$

for all $u \in S^{n-1}$.

Proof Given $u_0 \in S^{n-1}$. Taking the Euclidean n -balls $B_1 \subseteq K$ and $B_2 \subseteq L$ such that $x - y$ is not orthogonal to u_0 for all $(x, y) \in B_1 \times B_2$, then it follows from the continuity that the above result holds. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2 It follows from the standard Steiner symmetrization argument that there exists a sequence of directions $\{u_i\}$ with the sequences of convex bodies $\{K_i\}$ and $\{L_i\}$, defined by

$$K_{i+1} = S_{u_i} K_i, \quad K_0 = K,$$

and

$$L_{i+1} = S_{u_i} L_i, \quad L_0 = L,$$

converge to B_K and B_L , respectively. Note that B_K (B_L) is the n -ball, where $V(K) = V(B_K)$ ($V(L) = V(B_L)$).

By Property 3.3 and Lemma 4.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K_i, L_i)) &= V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(S_{u_{i-1}} K_{i-1}, S_{u_{i-1}} L_{i-1})) \\ &\leq V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K_{i-1}, L_{i-1})) \leq \cdots \\ &\leq V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)). \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

From Lemma 4.4, Lemma 4.3, (4.7), and the definitions of B_K and B_L , we get

$$V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)) \geq V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L)).$$

Since K and L are the ellipsoids, it follows from Property 3.4 that

$$V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)) = V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L)).$$

Conversely, let $V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)) = V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L))$. Clearly, for all $u \in S^{n-1}$ the inclusion in (4.6) is the identity. Thus we see that all of the chords of K and L parallel to u have midpoints that lie in a hyperplane, respectively, for all $u \in S^{n-1}$, namely, K and L are ellipsoids.

This implies

$$V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(K, L)) \geq V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L)), \quad (4.8)$$

where $V(B_K) = V(K)$ and $V(B_L) = V(L)$, and equality holds if and only if K and L are dilated ellipsoids having the same midpoints.

Furthermore, we know that $h(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L), u)$ is a constant independent of u . Thus $\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L)$ is an n -ball. Thus one has

$$\left(\frac{V(\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_p(B_K, B_L))}{\omega_n} \right)^{1/n} = \left(\frac{1}{V(B_K)V(B_L)} \int_{B_K} \int_{B_L} |\langle u, (x - y) \rangle|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p}. \quad (4.9)$$

The following formula is well known:

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} |\langle u, (x-y) \rangle|^p du = \frac{(n+p)\omega_{n+p}}{\omega_2\omega_{p-1}} |x-y|^p. \quad (4.10)$$

Together (4.9) with (4.10), it follows that

$$\left(\frac{V(\bar{Z}_p(B_K, B_L))}{\omega_n} \right)^{1/n} = \left(\frac{(n+p)\omega_{n+p}}{n\omega_2\omega_{p-1}\omega_n V(B_K)V(B_L)} \int_{B_K} \int_{B_L} |x-y|^p dx dy \right)^{1/p}. \quad (4.11)$$

Suppose that r_{B_K} and r_{B_L} denote radii of the balls B_K and B_L , respectively. Without loss of generality, let $B_K \subseteq B_L$. For all $u \in S^{n-1}$, it is obvious that $\rho_{DB_K}(u) = 2r_{B_K}$ and $\rho_{DB_L}(u) = 2r_{B_L}$. It follows from the spherical polar coordinates, (2.1), the Fubini theorem, and (2.6) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_K} \int_{B_L} |x-y|^p dx dy &= \int_{B_K} \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_0^{\rho_{B_L}(y,u)} r^{n+p-1} dr du dy \\ &= \frac{1}{n+p} \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_{B_K} \rho_{B_L}(y,u)^{n+p} dy du \\ &= \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_0^{\rho_{DB_K}(u)} V(B_K \cap (B_L + tu)) t^{n+p-1} dt du \\ &= \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_0^{2r_{B_K}} V(B_K \cap (B_L + tu)) t^{n+p-1} dt du. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

Since $g_{B_K, B_L}(tu)^{1/n} = V(B_K \cap (B_L + tu))^{1/n}$ is concave on DB_K , it follows from Lemma 2.1 that

$$V(B_K \cap (B_L + tu)) \geq V(B_K) \left(1 - \frac{t}{2r_{B_K}} \right)^n \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 2r_{B_K}, \quad (4.13)$$

with equality if and only if $B_K = B_L$.

Taking (4.12) together with (4.13), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_K} \int_{B_L} |x-y|^p dx dy &\geq n\omega_n (2r_{B_K})^{n+p} V(K) \int_0^1 y^{n+p-1} (1-y)^n dy \\ &= n\omega_n (2r_{B_K})^{n+p} \beta(n+p, n+1) V(K) \\ &= 2^{n+p} n\omega_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \beta(n+p, n+1) V(K)^{\frac{2n+p}{n}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

Combining (4.11) with (4.14), we have

$$\left(\frac{V(\bar{Z}_p(B_K, B_L))}{\omega_n} \right)^{1/n} \geq \left(\frac{2^{n+p}(n+p)\omega_{n+p}\beta(n+p, n+1)}{\omega_2\omega_{p-1}\omega_n^{\frac{n+p}{n}}} \right)^{1/p} \left(\frac{V(K)^{\frac{n+p}{n}}}{V(L)} \right)^{1/p}. \quad (4.15)$$

From (4.8) and (4.15), this yields

$$V(\bar{Z}_p(K, L)) \geq C(n, p) V(K)^{\frac{n+p}{p}} V(L)^{-\frac{n}{p}}, \quad (4.16)$$

with equality if and only if $K = L$ is an ellipsoid. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.3 Let $p = 1$. From the L_p -Minkowski inequality (2.3), we have

$$V(K)^{n-1}V(L) \geq \tilde{V}_1(K, L)^n.$$

Exchange the order of K and L , then

$$V(L)^{n-1}V(K) \geq \tilde{V}_1(L, K)^n,$$

namely,

$$\frac{V(K)}{V(L)} \geq \left(\frac{\tilde{V}_1(L, K)}{V(L)} \right)^n, \quad (4.17)$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates.

On the other hand, from inequality (1.6), we have

$$\left(\frac{V(\tilde{Z}_1(K, L))}{V(K)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq (C(n, 1))^{\frac{1}{n}} \frac{V(K)}{V(L)}, \quad (4.18)$$

with equality if and only if $K = L$ is an ellipsoid.

Taking (4.17) together with (4.18), it follows that

$$\left(\frac{V(\tilde{Z}_1(K, L))}{V(K)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq (C(n, 1))^{\frac{1}{n}} \left(\frac{\tilde{V}_1(L, K)}{V(L)} \right)^n.$$

Together with the equality conditions of inequalities (4.17) and (4.18), we see with equality in (1.7) if and only if $K = L$ is an ellipsoid. \square

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

The authors completed the paper, and read and approved the final manuscript.

Author details

¹College of Mathematics and Statistics, Hexi University, Zhangye, Gansu 734000, China. ²College of Mathematics and Statistics, Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou, Gansu 730070, China.

Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to the editors and the anonymous referees for many valuable suggestions and comments. This work is supported by the National Natural Science Foundations of China (Grant No. 11561020 and Grant No. 11161019), the Science and Technology Plan of Gansu Province (Grant No. 145RJZG227), the Young Foundation of Hexi University (Grant No. QN2015-02) and partly the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 11371224).

Received: 26 February 2016 Accepted: 7 September 2016 Published online: 15 September 2016

References

- Gardner, RJ: Geometric Tomography, 2nd edn. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2006)
- Schneider, R: Convex Bodies: The Brunn-Minkowski Theory, 2nd edn. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2014)
- Campi, S, Gronchi, P: Volume inequalities for L_p -zonotopes. *Mathematika* **53**, 71-80 (2006)
- Lutwak, E, Yang, D, Zhang, G: Volume inequalities for subspaces of L_p . *J. Differ. Geom.* **68**, 159-184 (2004)
- Schneider, R: Random hyperplanes meeting a convex body. *Z. Wahrscheinlichkeitstheor. Verw. Geb.* **61**, 379-387 (1982)
- Zhang, GY: Restricted chord projection and affine inequalities. *Geom. Dedic.* **39**, 213-222 (1991)
- Leichtweiß, K: Affine Geometry of Convex Bodies. Barth, Heidelberg (1998)
- Lindenstrauss, J, Milman, VD: Local theory of normal spaces and convexity. In: Gruber, PM, Wills, JM (eds.) *Handbook of Convex Geometry*, pp. 1149-1220. North-Holland, Amsterdam (1993)

9. Milman, VD, Pajor, A: Isotropic position and inertia ellipsoids and zonoids of the unit ball of a normal n -dimensional space. In: *Geometric Aspect of Functional Analysis. Lecture Note in Math.*, vol. 1376, pp. 64-104. Springer, Berlin (1989)
10. Schneider, R, Weil, W: Zonoids and related topics. In: Gruber, PM, Wills, JM (eds.) *Convexity and Its Applications*, pp. 296-317. Birkhäuser, Basel (1983)
11. Lutwak, E, Yang, D, Zhang, GY: L_p -Affine isoperimetric inequalities. *J. Differ. Geom.* **56**, 111-132 (2000)
12. Xi, DM, Guo, LJ, Leng, GS: Affine inequalities for L_p -mean zonoids. *Bull. Lond. Math. Soc.* **46**, 367-378 (2014)
13. Gardner, RJ, Zhang, GY: Affine inequalities and radial mean bodies. *Am. J. Math.* **120**, 505-528 (1998)
14. Yuan, SF, Zhang, HJ, Yuan, J: Several properties of the radial p th mean bodies of convex bodies. *J. Math. Res. Exposition* **26**, 617-622 (2006) (in Chinese)
15. Lutwak, E, Yang, D, Zhang, GY: Orlicz centroid bodies. *J. Differ. Geom.* **84**, 365-387 (2010)

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen[®] journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► springeropen.com